

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension of)
)
the Educator Certificate of)
)
Pamela Deprete Quick)
)
Certificate 133146)
_____)

ORDER OF SUSPENSION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on December 11, 2018. On August 29, 2018, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent Pamela Deprete Quick a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension or revocation of her South Carolina educator certificate 133146 by certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery, and regular mail. Ms. Quick received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Quick has not responded to the notice and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Quick's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on December 11, 2018, and ending on December 10, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Quick holds a professional educator certificate and has over 35 years of teaching experience. At the time of the misconduct, Ms. Quick was employed with Florence Public School District One (District) as the principal at West Florence High School (School). Ms. Quick resigned from her position on February 23, 2018.

In October of 2017, Ms. Quick failed to properly document or respond to reports of an employee sexually harassing other teachers. The staff member who reported the harassment learned of Ms. Quick's failure to file the documents after telling another supervisor about the harassment on February 5, 2018. While investigating the incident, the District learned of other reports that had not been documented by Ms. Quick.

During the investigation into Ms. Quick's failure to document the harassment claims, new allegations arose that Ms. Quick used her position to change a student's grade. The student received a 'FA' in a course as a result of accumulating 11 days over the permissible number of absences. Due to the failing grade, the student was no longer eligible to play on the School's sports teams. Students are allowed to appeal the decision, however

the deadlines for appeals had passed. Ms. Quick was a friend of the student's mother. Ms. Quick obtained an appeal form and submitted the appeal to the attendance clerk. The appeal procedures then called for submission to another staff member to rule on the appeal. However, the form Ms. Quick submitted was signed by Ms. Quick herself as approved. She then instructed the attendance clerk to have another administrator change the student's grade. After the change, the student returned to the sports team. However, the team's coach was unsure of the student's true eligibility and did not play the student in any games.

Ms. Quick was placed on administrative leave on February 14, 2018. She subsequently resigned her position with the district on February 23, 2018. On March 8, 2018, the District reported Ms. Quick's unprofessional conduct to the SCDE.

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Quick's educator certificate for a period of two years commencing on December 11, 2018, and ending on December 10, 2020.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2016); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2016). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the SCDE demonstrates that Ms. Quick engaged in unprofessional conduct and demonstrated evident unfitness for the position for which she was employed, as a result of failure to address reports of sexual harassment and changing a student's grade. The State Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists to suspend the educator certificate of Pamela Deprete Quick on the grounds of unprofessional conduct and evident unfitness for position for which she was employed.

Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered that the educator certificate of Pamela Deprete Quick certificate 133146, is suspended for two years, commencing on December 11, 2018, and ending on December 10, 2020. If Ms. Quick wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the conclusion of the period of suspension, she shall make a written request to the SCDE's Office of Educator Services. Ms. Quick shall be responsible for meeting all

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certification requirements in effect at the time she requests reinstatement. Ms. Quick will be responsible for the payment of any applicable reinstatement fees. The suspension of Ms. Quick's educator certificate shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By:

Sharon Wall
Sharon Wall, Ed.D., Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
December 11, 2018